

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by ASAI et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1 - 4 each recite determining whether an identical direction is input continuously and then moving a character in a stored direction when the identical direction has been input. Conventionally, when a camera needs to be switched due to a character's movement and a consequential switch in the area, the player must change his operation when the camera switches so that the moving direction of the character is maintained. In the present invention, however, the player does not need to change his operation in order to maintain the character's moving direction. Thus, the operational performance of the player is improved.

ASAI et al. do not show such a feature, nor provide a similar advantage. ASAI et al. only generally discuss the user input. Although ASAI et al. save data, the use of the saved data is different from the claimed invention's use of saved data. In ASAI et al., play data (absolute coordinate data and operation data) of a predetermined period is stored all the time. In order to perform a replay, the stored data is used to display the replay from a camera position indicated by a player.

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Consequently, ASAI et al. do not detect whether an identical direction has been input. ASAI et al. also do not move the character in a stored progress direction when an identical direction has been input.

Thus, for at least these reasons it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw all of the outstanding rejections and provide an indication of the allowability of all of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Reply, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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